

**SHARED-USE DATA PROCESSING FOR
PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEMS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data processing system and method for use with a process control system
5 enables a plurality of process plants associated with different business entities to share
a remotely situated data processing facility. The data processing facility includes a
cluster of redundant servers that are communicatively coupled via a local network.
Each of the redundant servers is adapted to acquire and process data received from the
plurality of process plants. The data processing facility also includes a plurality of
10 redundant data historians that are communicatively coupled to each other and to the
cluster of redundant servers for storage of process data and analysis results. Each of
the plurality of process plants includes internet-enabled field devices, internet-enabled
field device interfaces, and/or internet-enabled data concentration nodes that send
information to and receive information from the data processing facility via the
15 Internet.